

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS

A. Attend

Members of the public shall be permitted to attend and to speak at board meetings. They will not be required to identify themselves as a condition for admission to the meeting.

The Board may allow advisors, consultants, and other persons who are not Board members to appear at the meeting via telephone or other similar means.

The chair has the authority to assure that people conduct themselves in an orderly manner at the meeting. Undue interruption or other interference with the orderly conduct of business will not be allowed. The chair may order persons who are disorderly to be removed from the meeting.

Legal Reference:	Sections 79-570; 79-571; Sec. 84-1411 (3) and (6); Sec. 84-1412 (1) and (3)
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B. Hear

The board will, upon request, make a reasonable effort to accommodate the public's right to hear the discussion and testimony presented at the meeting.

Legal Reference:	Sec. 84-1412 (7)
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C. Record

Members of the public may use recording devices (tape recorder, video camera, etc.) to record any part of a meeting of a public body, except for closed sessions. No recording, other than note taking, shall be done without informing the President in advance. The President shall control the placement of the recording device so the device does not obstruct the view of Board members or other members of the public attending the meeting and does not otherwise interfere with the meeting.

Legal Reference:	Sec. 84-1412 (1)
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D. Access to Written Materials

At least one copy of all reproducible written material to be discussed at an open meeting will be made available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public.

Legal Reference:	Sec. 84-1412 (8)
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E. Speak

Members of the public will be permitted to speak at Board meetings at which a public forum is on the Agenda. Members of the public may also speak when invited to make a presentation or when recognized by the chair. The Board is not required to allow members of the public to speak at each meeting. However, the Board will not forbid public participation at all meetings.

Members of the public will not be required to have their name be placed on the agenda prior to the meeting in order to speak about items on the agenda.

Members of the public who desire to address the Board will be required to identify themselves, their address, and the name of any organization represented by such person, unless the address requirement is waived to protect the security of the individual.

The President or chair for the meeting shall have the authority to establish reasonable time limits for individual speakers and for the duration of public forum sessions.

Speakers will be permitted to address the Board consistent with free speech rights. However, offensive language, defamatory remarks, and hostile conduct will not be tolerated. Further, charges or complaints against a school employee shall not be made for the first time at a public Board meeting without having followed the school's complaint procedure.

Legal Reference:	Sec. 84-1412 (1) (2) and (3)
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Policy readopted: March 15, 2000 and April 13, 2000

Policy readopted: May 14, 2009 and June 11, 2009

Policy readopted: March 13, 2014 and April 10, 2014

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Policy Revised: November 10, 2021 and December 8, 2021